



RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO REVIEW THE CITY'S INVENTORY OF VACANT PROPERTIES AND IDENTIFY AREAS SUITABLE FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS.

WHEREAS, the Community Recreational Gardening Program ("program") is administered by the Department of Parks and Recreation; and

WHEREAS, there are currently eleven community gardens in the City and County of Honolulu; and

WHEREAS, community gardens are a welcome visual addition to urban neighborhoods that lack green space or landscaping; and

WHEREAS, community gardens promote fellowship and neighborliness among the gardeners; and

WHEREAS, community gardens also promote good health through providing an opportunity to grow fruits and vegetables, especially where fresh produce may be hard to find or where residents find that such produce is unaffordable, a concept that is also promoted through the Kokua Hawaii Foundation's Aina In Schools program; and

WHEREAS, community gardens have also been shown to have therapeutic and health effects, particularly for seniors, for whom gardening increases their level of physical activity and maintains mobility and flexibility, encourages use of all motor skills, helps prevent diseases like osteoporosis, reduces stress levels and promotes relaxation, and provides stimulation and interest in nature and the outdoors; and

WHEREAS, community gardening has been recognized as an effective crime reduction strategy; and

WHEREAS, there is a waitlist to get a garden plot at the community gardens, which means that many interested city residents are not able to experience the foregoing benefits; and

WHEREAS, private-public partnerships can be promoted to assist in off-setting costs incurred with further developing the program; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 07-189, adopted by the Council on January 23, 2008, urged the City administration to identify city properties that are suitable for community gardens; and



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WHEREAS, in Departmental Communication 17, dated January 9, 2009, the Director of Parks and Recreation responded that the administration has not been able to identify available sites and will continue to seek the possible development of additional sites as land become available for future community gardens; and

WHEREAS, it is timely for the City administration to review the issue and consider the development of additional community garden sites; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the City administration is urged to review the City's inventory of vacant properties and identify areas suitable for community gardens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the administration report to the Council no later than 90 days following adoption of this Resolution on its findings and recommendations; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of Parks and Recreation, and the chairs of the neighborhood boards.

INTRODUCED BY:

And Furman
Amalia

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

JUN 24 2013

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers